

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claim 9, which is now clear and definite. Applicant submits that claim 9 is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsui et al. Applicant submits that Matsui et al. should be removed as prior art. The present invention has a priority date of June 30, 2000, which antedates the filing date of Matsui et al., which is January 24, 2001. In order to show support from the priority document, Applicant herewith submits a certified translation of the priority document.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is deemed moot.

Claims 5-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. in view of Applicant's prior art.

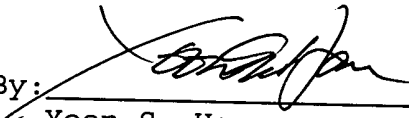
As set forth above, Applicant believes that Matsui et al. should be removed as prior art. Accordingly, this rejection is also deemed moot.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 13-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 8, the step of providing the semiconductor substrate comprising:

forming a conducting layer on the semiconductor substrate, wherein the conducting layer is electrically connected to the lower [plays an] electrode via the plug [in the step of forming the lower electrode of the capacitor].